

Meeting
04/07/08

Agenda Item
15

Reference No
HEFCW/08/46

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents for information the Council's Welsh Language Mainstreaming Strategy for 2008-09 which we have submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 We are required by the Welsh Assembly Government to have a Welsh Language Mainstreaming Strategy which we revise each year.
- 2.2 Our responsibility to meet the requirements of our Welsh Language Mainstreaming Strategy is included in the Corporate Plan.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive in approving and submitting the 2008-09 Welsh Language Mainstreaming Strategy to the Welsh Assembly Government.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 There are no decisions required. The paper is for information.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

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7 Background

- 7.1 The Council was first asked by the Welsh Assembly Government to prepare a Welsh language mainstreaming strategy in 2004-05, in line with the requirement that all ASPBs, now known as Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies (AGSBs), “mainstream consideration of the Welsh language into their policy making and service delivery processes”. Each year we revise the strategy.

8 Mainstreaming Strategy 2008-09

- 8.1 Following discussions, officials in our sponsor division in the Welsh Assembly Government agreed that they were content for us this year to provide a summary update concentrating on new Welsh language mainstreaming activities, rather than a full revised strategy. This was on the basis that they recognised that we have always clearly linked the structure of our strategy to our Operational Plan.
- 8.2 The Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the revised version of the strategy for 2008-09. We submitted the strategy to the Assembly Government on 30 April 2008. A copy, together with a progress report on 2007-08, is at Annex A.
- 8.3 We received confirmation on 10 June from our sponsor division that they are content with our strategy for 2008-09.

9 Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications to this paper other than for actions which have already been identified within the Council's Operational Plan for 2008-09.

10 Communications implications

- 10.1 The Welsh Language Mainstreaming Strategy will be published on the HEFCW website.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 11.1 The mainstreaming strategy is key to the assurance given in the Council's Welsh Language Scheme that it will promote and facilitate the use of Welsh wherever possible when considering new or revised policies, processes or procedures. The strategy will contribute to equality of opportunity for Welsh and English speakers through raising the profile and use of the Welsh language.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 The table below identifies some of the key risks in progressing this work:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
The mainstreaming strategy is an important element in HEFCW's contribution to the Welsh Assembly Government's overall objective to mainstream the Welsh Language within its own activities and those of its AGSB's. Failure to present an acceptable strategy would affect the Council's reputation and could call into question its commitment to mainstreaming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building on previous years' strategies• Taking account of the feedback provided by Assembly Government officials in revising and implementing the strategy.• Part of the role of the Welsh Language Support Officer in HEFCW is to support the implementation of the mainstreaming strategy.